



# SPIRE

## News of New Haven United Methodist Church

*"Making Disciples for Jesus Christ in the world, by being God's Love in Action"*

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VOLUME MMXXI Number 1

JANUARY, 2021

## Happy New Year!



As we all say goodbye to 2020 and say hello to 2021, I would like to reflect on some of the accomplishments of 2020. First of all, even in the midst of the pandemic, New Haven UMC not only survived, but thrived in so many ways. We made a quick pivot back in March to online worship. This allowed us to continue worshipping as a community even when it wasn't possible for us to be together in person. Volunteers quickly stepped up to call and check in on our members to make sure everyone was doing ok in the midst of lockdown. Even though 10 months later, we are still under covid restrictions, we have much to be thankful for. We have two Sunday School and one Tuesday evening connection groups that are meeting by Zoom (see information on Page 2.) We have also added another

connection group called Coffee With the Pastor on Tuesday mornings where members gather informally on Zoom, drink their beverage of choice, (mine is coffee hence the name) pray together, and spend time either visiting, sharing a devotion, or discussing books we are reading. The children are still being supported with a Facebook group called Children's Church at Home where parents can go to get lessons, art projects, and inspiration for teaching their own children about Jesus. We conducted a Virtual Vacation Bible School this Summer, and we have continued to feed the hungry through Restore Hope Ministries and Day Center for the Homeless. We provided gifts for more than 60 children with our Angel Tree offerings, and through the generosity of our members, we have aided several families with food and emergency shelter through contributions to the Pastor's Alms Fund.

While 2020 may have disrupted our lives, it did not keep us from responding to God's call to be a community of heart and soul helping to make disciples for Jesus Christ by being God's love in action! My heart goes out to each of you, and I ask you to stay strong in 2021, stay positive, and test negative!

Grace and peace,

Pastor James



## Sunday Mornings 10:00 - 10:40am

During Advent, the Fellowship Class (and visitors) will meet in Israel on **Sunday mornings at 9:45**. We are visiting the homes of the four Gospel writers to see how they celebrated the coming of Jesus.

Our first stop was Mark’s basic and simple home. Clearly, Mark was not interested in Christmas decorations or even the miraculous birth of Jesus. Mark’s focus was on the Good News and that Jesus came to change our lives forever--bringing hope for our despair. “Good Christian friends rejoice, Jesus Christ was born to save”, was Mark’s theme song.

Matthew’s home was much bigger and way more inviting. We were seated at the Christmas table with Jesus’ extended family. (He listed them in the first chapter) It was amazing and no one was excluded or felt unwelcome. At Matthew’s table we learned the true meaning of Christmas—God demonstrates His love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. All of us!

Next Sunday we visit Luke’s home and then we will stop at John’s place. There is one more stop before we return to spend Christmas in our own homes.

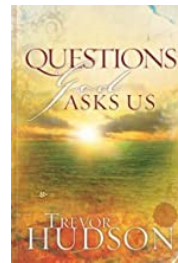
If you would like to join us, here is the link:

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://zoom.us/j/95266221837?](https://zoom.us/j/95266221837?pwd=bGduKzl1RctiSitYaFF4ZEh3aEcwZz09)  
[pwd=bGduKzl1RctiSitYaFF4ZEh3aEcwZz09](https://zoom.us/j/95266221837?pwd=bGduKzl1RctiSitYaFF4ZEh3aEcwZz09)

You may be prompted to enter the numbers below when you join.

Meeting ID: 952 6622 1837  
Passcode: 5ka1nw

## Also Sundays @ 10:00am Interlude Class



New book **“Questions God Asks Us”** by Trevor Hudson. We are always asking God questions, for healing, for life decisions, for others in our lives, for jobs or better jobs, but what questions does God ask us? Join our lively class discussions as we seek to find the questions and answers. Book is available to purchase on line at Amazon.com.

Call Stacey Schifferdecker for more information and ZOOM sign in directions.

## Tuesday Evenings 7:00 - 7:45 pm



### Roundtable Connection Class All are welcome!

Meeting on Zoom

Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 7:45 p.m.

We are traveling through the book of Genesis looking at the familiar and sometimes unfamiliar stories through the lens of the ancient Jewish Rabbis.

We would love to have you join us as we explore the ins and outs of these stories.

For more information or to get the link to Zoom

Call or text Jone Friesen at 918 445-1576

Email at [jone.w.friesen@gmail.com](mailto:jone.w.friesen@gmail.com)





December has quickly come and gone and we're not likely to forget Christmas of 2020 any time soon! Although celebrations looked different for many of us this year, the Reason for the Season did not change. And we are so grateful for the birth of Jesus Christ! Thank you to all who contributed in helping to make the season of advent and Christmas special to our children despite our challenges this past year. We had wonderful story times in our Children's Church at Home Facebook group as well as fantastic in person children's moments, ornament decorating, and a "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party!

# KIDS CORNER

We look forward to a fresh new year and hopefully safely returning to more of our in person activities in the future! If you're interested helping to enrich our children's experience at New Haven UMC in any way please contact me at [brit8519@yahoo.com](mailto:brit8519@yahoo.com).

Blessings and Love,

Brittany Fox



**In person  
Children's Moments**

## Happy January Birthdays

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Izzy Hart             | 16 Joan Bebee              |
| 7 Sami Hardgraves-Bruce | 19 Stephen Merrick         |
| 10 Kay Garwood          | 20 Derek Lamkin            |
| 11 Ron Unterscheutz     | 21 Dwayne Boyd             |
| 12 Rose Unterschuetz    | 23 Pastor James Graham III |
| 13 Rachel Pape          | 28 Bryce Perceval          |
| 13 David Toalson        | 28 Julian Smith            |
| 14 Sallyanne Wallace    | 29 Mike Riggan             |

### PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .

Greg Gotcher  
 Jan, Doyle & Dwayne Boyd  
 Marion Wilkerson  
 Betty Fine  
 Karyn Maio  
 Joe Sanders  
 Tom Black  
 Kelly & John Sartain  
 Don Gregory  
 Dodie Wood  
 Guy & Jan Duffield

Joseph & Kathryn Stephenson on the death of George Stephenson  
 Our Military & First Responders  
 COVID-19 HEROES



*In Our Thoughts & Prayers*



## New Haven Staff How to Reach Us . . .

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